

Hamilton Field, Officers' Quarters
(Facility No. 111)
San Pablo Avenue southeast of Escolta Avenue
intersection
Novato
Marin County
California

HABS No. CA-2398-CI

HABS
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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
San Francisco, California

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

**HAMILTON FIELD
Officers' Quarters
(Facility No. 111)**

HABS
CAL
21-NOVA,
ICE-

HABS No. CA-2398-CI

Location: Hamilton Army Air Field
Novato, Marin County, California
Officers' Quarters
Facility No. 111 (San Pablo Avenue southeast of Escolta Avenue intersection)

U.S.G.S.: Novato, CA. Quadrangle (7.5' series), 1954 (revised 1980)
Petaluma Point, CA. Quadrangle (7.5' series), 1959 (revised 1980)
UTM Coordinates: Zone 10; A: 542100/4213620; b: 544720/4212220;
C: 542760/4210650; d: 541040/4212600

Significance:

This two-story cantonment building was erected adjacent to the main base area beginning in 1939 as the base property was expanded and additional temporary housing areas were established. During the war, the level areas on either side of 7th, 8th, 9th, and 11th streets were lined with enlisted men's barracks; this facility was used by officers and is divided into small apartments for their use.

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-2398) for a comprehensive Statement of Significance and individual report HABS No. CA-2398-A for a condensed Statement of Significance.

Description:

The two-story frame barracks building is rectilinear in shape and measures approximately 30 by 80 feet. It has low-pitched composition shingle gable roof with louvered vents in the gable ends and overhanging eaves. The building has skirt roofs, also with composition shingles, which separate the first and second floors. Siding is horizontal wood frame covered with asbestos shingles. The foundations are concrete wall and the floors concrete slab. Entrance doors, on each end of the building, are metal with glass panel; locksets are standard metal with exterior thumb latch locks, with interior round knobs and half-mortised hinges. Doors have metal panic bars on the interior. Windows are eight- over eight-light wood sash, with 11 on each second story side elevation and 10 on the lower story. Exterior wood staircases provide access to the second floor through wooden doors with four lights over three recessed wood panels.

Facility No. 111 consists of four separate apartments on the lower floor and five one-room apartments and two two-room apartments on the second. It has double-barrelled

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corridors, with apartments on each side, a day room on the east end, and a communal kitchen. The day room is a modification and is wood paneled with suspended acoustical tile ceiling. Flooring is eight-inch-square vinyl asphalt tile, covered with carpeting in some rooms. Each apartment has two rooms with a bath. Locker rooms, storage rooms, a laundry room, and janitor closets with cast iron mop sinks complete the accommodations. Ductwork is exposed and heating facilities consists of gas-fired furnaces. Saucer-type ceiling light fixtures are located in the center of each room; replacement fixtures consist of suspended industrial type, open end florescent fixtures.

Historical Context:

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-2398) and Section B in report HABS No. CA-2398-F.

Facility No. 111 was completed in the fall of 1940 for use as an officers' quarters. Compared to the enlisted men's dormitories, this building offered deluxe accommodations and privacy. It remained in use as a quarters until the early 1990s. Owned by the U. S. Navy, it is now included in base closure procedures.

Sources:

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-2398) and Section B in report HABS No. CA-2398-F.

Field Record, roll 79, exposures 9-12; roll 80, exposures 1-8; roll 92, exposures 11-12; roll 97, exposures 3-12; roll 98, exposures 1-12; and roll 99, exposures 1-6.

The line drawn sketches were drafted on site in 1994 by Keith Syda, scanned into a computer and drawn by Christopher MacDonald in 1995, and corrected and finalized by Claire Warshaw in 1996 (all PAR Environmental Services, Inc. staff).

Project Information:

Hamilton Army Air Field is owned by various federal entities including the Department of the Navy, Department of the Army, United States Coast Guard, and General Services Administration (GSA). The Army/GSA parcels are being excessed and sold to private developers. The Navy property is included in Base Closure and Realignment actions.

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As part of the Army's undertaking, it has been determined in consultation with the California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) that the excess sale will have an affect on properties at the air field, and that these properties are components of a district that is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Based on consultation with the OHP and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, pursuant to 36 CFR part 800, regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f), a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was entered into by the interested parties in March 1994. The agreement stipulated that prior to excess sale the Army must contact the HABS/HAER division at the Western Regional Office of the National Park Service, San Francisco, California, to determine the appropriate level and kind of recordation for the subject properties. The MOA further stipulated that copies of the documentation be made available to the OHP and appropriate local archives designated by the OHP. This recordation has been prepared in order to meet those stipulations.

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Date prepared: July 1995

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Date of photographs: September 1994 and January 1995

← 29' 6" →

